

Guardian

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Hands on
KIDS VISIT BONDSTEEL

ABL synchronized patrol



Water, reach for it...

**Before you
get stuck
with it.**



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PHOTO BY SPC. ALICIA DILL



PHOTO BY SPC. ALICIA DILL

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On the Cover:

COVER PHOTO BY SPC. ALICIA DILL

Ahmet Nazifi, five years old, from the Tefik Canga School in Ferizaj/Urosevac, gets hands-on experience with the fire extinguishing hose, during a demonstration by the Camp Bondsteel fire team.

One team, one army

By Master Sgt. Terry Ellis

Be all that you can be, my all-time favorite U.S. Army slogan, was replaced by the Army's newest slogan "An Army of One." To a lot of people these are just catch phrases, recruiting tools, or just mere words.

To those of us who wear the uniform of the U.S. Army, and are willing to leave our jobs and families behind, to serve our country, these slogans should have a much deeper meaning.

To be all you can be is descriptive of the fact that we are not just citizens of the United States of America, but we are also Soldiers, serving in the military that defends our country, our freedoms, and our way of life.

When I was recruited into the Army, which really is an unfair description, considering the fact that I called the recruiter, I told him what I wanted to do, and I told him when I wanted to join. Be all you can be was the slogan of choice at the time.

I took that to heart. It is a simplified version of what my grandmother used to tell me as a child: "If something is worth you spending your time to do, then it is worth you doing it right!" In other words, when you do anything in life, you should do it to the best of your ability, anything less is unacceptable, anything less-you are being a "slacker."

The fact that we are Soldiers should be all that is needed to spur us on, to strive to be all that we can be. We have the opportunity to serve in the most powerful, most respected, and most technologically-advanced military in the history of the world. We also have the opportunity to serve with some of the most well-trained and capable Soldiers in the history of the world. And when we run across a Soldier who may not be at the level he or she should be, we have the opportunity to help mold that Soldier into one of the best trained Soldiers in the history of the world.

To be totally honest, I didn't "get"



Master Sgt. Terry Ellis is an operations NCOIC with Task Force Med Falcon. Ellis readies his rucksack during the May 8, Danish Contingency Road March held in Kosovo. Ellis and other Soldiers participated in the 25.2 kilometer march.

the new Army slogan. What exactly is an Army of one? I had to contemplate the idea. But after this experience: being a United States Army Reserve Soldier, mobilizing to Kosovo with a National Guard Brigade, supported by active component elements, it is a very suitable slogan for today's current military environment.

We have Active Duty, Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers serving together, side by side, all over the world. There are still some minor differences in the way we may perform certain procedures, but in this current Global War on Terror, we all have the same purpose.

The Kosovo Force mission, enforcing U.N. Security Council Resolution #1244, by providing for a safe and secure environment and promoting the transition back to civil authorities, is probably one of the best examples of this teamwork.

Being able to distinguish between the military components is becoming less of an issue. When it comes to service, we are one team. Regardless of the component of the United States military that we serve, we are all, as Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, Chief of United States Army Reserves, described us "Citizens First, Warriors Always." We are all Soldiers in an Army of one. ★

Guardian

Produced for Personnel of KFOR Multinational Brigade (East)

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Medal of Honor recipient dies at 94

Jose M. Lopez, 94, a retired Army master sergeant who received the Medal of Honor for engaging in a series of “seemingly suicidal missions” during the Battle of the Bulge, died May 16 at a daughter’s home in San Antonio. He had cancer.

Lopez was born in Mexico, orphaned when he was eight years old and worked in a series of subsistence jobs. A short but sinewy man, he boxed lightweight for many years in his youth. After a series of seafaring misadventures -- he once was stranded at sea for weeks on a cargo boat with nothing to eat but a cache of bananas -- he enlisted in the Army during World War II.

He landed at Normandy a day after the June 6, 1944, invasion, and a bullet smacked into his ammunition belt, grazing his hip.

“I was really very, very afraid,” he told journalist Bill Moyers for a television special in 1990. “I wanted to cry, and we saw other people laying wounded and screaming and everything, and there’s nothing you could do. We could see them groaning in the water, and we had to just keep walking.”

At dawn on Dec. 17, 1944, he and his men were outside Krinkelt, Belgium, shortly after the start of the German offensive through the Ardennes known as the Battle of the Bulge.

Lugging a heavy machine gun, Lopez climbed into a shallow, snow-covered hole that left everything above his waist exposed. He heard the rumbling of a tank, which he figured was American; an Allied Soldier a few hundreds yards away had failed to signal him of approaching danger.

When he saw the German Tiger tank come into sight and the horde of German foot Soldiers around it, he thought of dozens of his men just a few hundred yards away. Aiming at the Soldiers around the tank, he killed 10 of them. That prompted the Tiger tank to fire rather recklessly in his direction. It

took three shell blasts to knock Lopez over, and he suffered a concussion.

He nevertheless repositioned himself to prevent enemy Soldiers from outflanking him, resetting his gun and killing 25 more Germans.

Allowing time for his comrades to retreat to a safer position, he then dashed through the dense and protective forest and avoided contact with a cascade of enemy small-arms fire.

Eventually, the Americans fell back to Krinkelt and held out through the night. The Germans bypassed the town.

A few months later, Gen. James A. Van Fleet presented him with the Medal of Honor. The citation recognized the “seemingly suicidal missions in which he killed at least 100 of the enemy . . . [and which] were almost solely responsible for allowing Company K to avoid being enveloped, to withdraw successfully and to give other forces coming up in support time to build a line which repelled the enemy drive.”

Jose Mendoza Lopez was born July 10, 1910. He never knew his exact birth town but was raised in Veracruz. His father was gone; his mother said he had drowned. She died of tuberculosis.

With other relatives dead or unable to support him, he made his way to Texas and settled in the Rio Grande Valley town of Mission. There, a family let him sleep in their shed and fed him.

His Medal of Honor citation lists Mission as his birthplace.

He started boxing, and at age 17 found himself in Atlanta. Standing five feet five inches and weighing 130 pounds, he nevertheless fought and pummeled a much bigger man.

A boxing manager who witnessed the beating trained the newly named “Kid Mendoza” and saw him through 52 victories and three losses.

In 1936, he joined the U.S. Merchant Marine and held other maritime



PHOTO BY BILLY CALZADA

Jose M. Lopez, shown in January, fought at Normandy and in the Battle of the Bulge.

jobs.

After his World War II service, he fought in Korea until a ranking officer heard that a Medal of Honor recipient was in battle. He was ordered to the rear and spent months picking up bodies and registering them for burial.

He retired in 1973.

To maintain his physique, Lopez jogged until age 88. He also saw a trainer three times a week, a regimen that ended three months ago as his illness worsened.

His wife of 62 years, Emilia Herrera Lopez, died in February 2004.

Survivors include five children, Candida “Marie” Pieratti of Mahopac, N.Y., Virginia Rogers of Ogden, Utah, Beatrice Pedraza of Lima, Peru, and John Lopez and Maggie Wickwire, both of San Antonio; 19 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. ★

(Note: The following article originally appeared in the May 18 Metro edition of The Washington Post and is republished here with permission.) The Post has also granted permission for Army newspapers to reprint this article

Around MNB(E)



Pvt. Stanislaw Wiecko, an engineer with Headquarters Company, Polish/ Ukrainian Battalion scans the upper level of a barn during a cordon and search. The metal detector is one of the many useful tools KFOR Soldiers use to detect hidden weapons.

Under the cover of darkness, the convoy moves in, driving up a steep and curving dirt road. Close to the top, the engines and lights are turned off. The Soldiers dismount and wait for the mission to start.

As the sun rises over the horizon, the morning silence of a Kosovo border town is broken by the sound of approaching AH 64 (Apache) attack helicopters. The Apaches move into position to support the ground troops while temporary checkpoints are set up

on the roads to control access to the village.

On this particular operation, three areas were searched in or near Kacanik, Kosovo.

The mission begins as the Soldiers descend into the town from the mountainside.

This operation is called a cordon and search and it is a systematic and thorough search of a town. It involves surrounding the objective and searching homes and yards for any weapons

or supplies that threaten the safe and secure environment in Kosovo.

"The mission was lead by the Polish and Ukrainian battalion," said 1st Lt. Eric Sharyer a native of Whittier, Calif., and a member of the 40th Military Police Company, "The Polish and Ukrainians did a very professional job, I did not have any bad apprehensions going in under their command. I was attached to their operation. They had control over it and had safety measures in place. My Soldiers were impressed



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JOHN MAKAMSON

by them and I was too.”

The troops are mainly looking for weapons or munitions caches, any written identification associated with armed ethnic extremist and any type of contraband that may be hidden to be smuggled in and out of the province.

“In our section of the search, the joint forces captured one AK-47, two pistols and various types of ammunition,” said Sharyer.

Most of the local populace knows that the Soldiers are out here try-



ABOVE PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. R DAVID KYLE

(Above photos) Ammunition, small arms, hand grenades and smuggled illegal cigarettes were some of the items confiscated during the cordon and search in or near Kacanik/Kacanik.

ing to keep them safe. They were very cooperative and most of them were actually glad to see the Peacemakers come through their town.

With the Kosovo Forces (KFOR) Soldiers actively coming out to the towns and conducting searches, it helps the multinational brigade keep the pressure on rebel extremists. They don't know when or where KFOR will turn up, and that makes it a lot harder to smuggle illegal weapons.

The operation not only benefits Kosovo by helping decrease illegal activity, but also it builds the confidence of the multinational Soldiers involved, knowing they can accomplish such a crucial mission together.

“The Polish and Ukrainian Infantry companies have been working well together for the past year, but it's good to have the American Soldiers work with us,” said Capt. Rafal Iwanek, Hawk Coy, Polish/ Ukrainian Infantry Battalion.

“I thought the operation went well,”

said Staff Sgt. Joe Love from Redding, Calif., “The Polish/ Ukrainian units did a very thorough search and treated the townspeople with dignity and respect.”

“I was real happy with the operations order they had given us before we left the base. We knew who was in charge and what was going to happen, we were well informed. I think the multinational effort is working well,” said Love.

At the conclusion of the three area sweep, a total of two pistols, 210 rounds of ammunition, two grenades, two AK-47 rifles, and 75 cartons of smuggled cigarettes had been found. Items were confiscated and turned over to the Kosovo Police Service.

With KFOR's presence made known, the Soldiers remain very flexible and willing to go any distance necessary to make sure that the communities are safe, and free of illegal activity. They are making sure that Kosovo is on track for a successful transition to a peaceful and democratic society. ★

What makes the Army: Soldiers

Spc. Brian Price is the first Soldier of the Quarter for U.S. KFOR Rotation 6B. Achieving this recognition was the result of hard work and motivation for military service.

Spc. Brian Price, Combat Medic for Company C, Task Force Tornado, practices the 'fireman's carry,' with a battle buddy to be proficient on medical emergency combat skills.



PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE

Spc. Brian Price, Soldier of the Quarter, has eight children, two dogs, two cats and his own band that has released six compact discs. Multitasking isn't anything new for this Peacemaker. Studying simultaneously for Soldier of the Quarter and a highly demanding combat medic course, he showed that achieving multiple goals is attainable and within reach.

Provided is a question from Soldier of the Quarter board:

Q: What do the three different colors of the American flag mean?

A: Red is hardiness and valor, white is innocence and purity and blue is vigilance and justice.

Give us an idea about your experience of going before the Soldier of the Quarter board?

Soldier of the Quarter board was very nerve-wracking. You want to look good and you should make sure you know your material. The board is looking at you the entire time. From the moment you walk into the room, to the second the door shuts behind you on the way out.

The other thing that added to the tension was the fact that the other Sol-

diers wanted it as bad as, or even more, than I did. There were seven different guys that were the best from seven different task forces that I had to go up against. I had to be cool and calm and perform under those circumstances.

When did you get started in the military?

My father was a Marine, my grandfather was a Marine and I wanted to be a Marine. Although, the Marines don't provide their own medical personnel, the Navy provides medical personnel for the Marines. I wanted to be in medical so I joined the Navy and requested field medical school. I was a hospital corpsman. The Army equivalent is 91 Whiskey. I was stationed with the 2nd Bn., 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

I was active duty Navy for four years then I stayed out due to other aspirations. After getting out of the Navy, I did a whole bunch of miscellaneous jobs...jeweler, carpet layer, salesman and even an entertainer, for 18 years. Motivation stemming from Sept. 11th, 2001, sprouted my desire to rejoin. I felt I had skills that were useful to the military and I wanted to serve my country, again.

I wanted to join the Navy again but they were in a stop-loss. My Navy recruiter told me I could be directly transferred back into the Navy after a year of service if I joined the Army National Guard. In August 2003, I was able to surf through all the paperwork, jump through all the hoops and I finally was able to join the military again.

Somewhat to my surprise, I liked the Army better, so I stayed. I found if I can do it physically or mentally, I can do it in the Army regardless of my age.

What was the most difficult thing about going to the Soldier of the quarter board?

Nothing stood out in particular but at the same time the Soldier of the Quarter board was being held, I was taking the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic class, which included pre-hospital trauma life

support, trauma aims and EMT intermediate class.

Studying hard and listening to the instructors helped me as much as I helped them. I was able to take away honor graduate from the course. I don't think I am a better medic, because anyone that passed the transition course is fully-qualified medic.

Although I was confident in my skills, I needed to get a refresher and show the Army I was knowledgeable in my skills. Things change monthly, so I

"Attitude can make a big difference on not only your own personal well-being but how other people perceive you," said Price.

wanted to be at the top of the game for my profession.

What do you think separates a star Soldier from the rest of the crowd?

Disconnecting your personal feelings from what needs to be done. For example, a duty as simple as scrubbing a latrine, or practicing how to apply a tourniquet to save someone's life, are tasks that need to be performed with equal dedication and attention to detail.

Attitude can make a big difference on not only your own personal well-being but how other people perceive you. It makes it easier to survive a deployment when you have a good attitude.

What keeps yourself and other Soldiers in top mental and physical shape?

"Hooah" stuff is really important to me and my battalion cares about me. I think unity is an important part of the steps to success with a military career. For example, if I went into combat, I would need to know the guy next to me would be able to perform his job.

My life is in his hands and vice versa. Doing things together builds unit cohesiveness and trust.

The military isn't hard -- do what you are told without complaining and that is it. They tell you to exercise and eat right, they tell you to wear a clean uniform and to wear it properly. These are all little things that you do every day that are easy. They make you look good; they make the unit look good which makes the Army look good.

What Army values do you think are most important?

"Strength and honor," is a motto I have taught all my children and teach all my troops. They are the two most important, and sometimes the hardest, values to live by. If you have the strength to weather adversities then you have the honor to accept responsibility.

For example, Soldiers need strength to get through a deployment. Being away from loved ones and friends is tough. Soldiers need honor to get through a deployment with discipline and to not cut corners. Do the things that you need to do to excel, so at the end of the deployment you will be recognized and not forgotten.

Younger Soldiers need to know that military courtesies are a part of honor. A Soldier expects an officer or a Non-commissioned Officer to give them honor. Respect and honor is an earned thing, Soldiers need to start by respecting the rank and the rest should come after that.

What other goals do you plan to achieve during your deployment?

I have a list of 40 or so things I want to do while I am on deployment here. Things like education classes, a higher Army Physical Fitness Test score and even writing my kids once a week, are things that are important to me. Soldier of the Quarter was one of my goals and I have already got that checked off! Persistence was a personality trait I needed to accomplish these goals. Sticking with something, even though you don't want to do it, is key. ★

MPs field M-1117

This Armored Security Vehicle is highly-mobile and C-130 Aircraft transportable. The vehicle's armor is capable of resisting .50-caliber armor piercing rounds and has the capability to deflect up to a 12-pound mine blast.



PHOTO BY ARMY NEWS SERVICE

The Army's military police force in Iraq has recently fielded a highly-mobile vehicle to its supply of convoy operation equipment for use throughout the Iraq theater; and the military police (MPs) are learning the ins and outs of the vehicle from the people who know it best - the manufacturers.

The M-1117 Armored Security Vehicle (ASV) is a four-wheeled vehicle with a mounted .50-caliber machine gun, in production for the Army since 2000. In order for Soldiers to be familiar with and maintain the ASV, the manufacturer, New Orleans-based Textron Systems, is supplying the Army with representatives in Iraq to train Soldiers on maintenance, repair and operations.

One of the representatives, Brian D. Perkins, a 15-year Textron employee from Picayune, Miss., spent most of last year in Iraq training troops about the M-1117. Part of Perkins' job is to go to the field and work on the ASV, but he said he also is here to support Army units that have the vehicle.

"I provide them with maintenance advice as a subject-matter expert," Perkins said.

Perkins and his staff offer the MP's courses on maintenance and operations of the ASV while they are in Iraq. Perkins said each course is part classroom, part hands-on.

Speaking of the 40-hour operator's course, Perkins said, "We familiarize the operator on preventive maintenance

checks and services procedures; driving the vehicle; bore sighting the weapons, and teaching the weapons systems and how they work. Every time we deliver to new operators, we give the operator's course."

Perkins said the maintenance course is more comprehensive, and most of that means getting inside the vehicle.

"The maintenance course is an 80-hour course, and two-thirds of that is hands-on," Perkins said. "We train the mechanics on all levels of maintenance.

"We'll teach the Soldiers how to pull the power packs, trouble shoot the hydraulic lines, fix electrical problems and pull the turrets," Perkins said. "The Soldiers are taught where the locations of all the different things are on the engine and how to fix them.

"Everything we can give the Soldiers to help them down the road we teach them," he said.

Sgt. Mark J. Meunier, vehicle commander and MP, 940th MP Company, recently had some trouble with his ASV and had to see Perkins for repairs.

"We blew the o-ring on the wheel solenoid," Meunier said. "Over time these things just give out and the Textron representatives are the ones who help us out. They know everything about these vehicles."

Meunier and his fellow crewmembers were on their way from Forward Operating Base Diwanayah to Camp Liberty to take the maintenance course

when a problem happened before they made the trip. The vehicle made the trip and Meunier and crew were able to get their hands dirty before the class even started.

Along with Sgt. Anthony Faul and Spc. Ashley N. Walters, both MP's with the 940th, Meunier and Perkins worked using wrenches, jacks and good-ol' elbow grease to fix the problem. With Perkins supervising and offering a hand or advice when needed, the o-ring was replaced in a couple of hours.

"Perkins knows all about the vehicle, so he was able to teach us a lot. We'll be here for a week though, so they'll show us a lot more," Faul said.

Meunier, Faul and Walters are able to take the knowledge they learned at the course and turn around to teach their mechanics how to fix the ASV.

"Our mechanics don't know anything about the vehicle because it is new to us," Faul said. "So we'll show them everything that he taught us."

The M-1117 is a vehicle that Perkins said he is proud to work with, and he is happy to pass on his knowledge of the ASV to the Soldiers in Iraq.

"The Soldiers have been very receptive and are eager to learn," Perkins said. They want to know about their equipment, and I'm more than willing to teach them. They want to keep their equipment going because they're outside the wire with it, and they don't want to break down." ★

Kosovo's future pays Soldiers a visit



The students from Tefik Canga School in Ferizaj/Urosevac clap with excitement as Bruno, and the K9 unit, demonstrate their capabilities.

Most Soldiers on Camp Bondsteel see the same things every day—helicopters, Humvees and sometimes fire trucks. Although these sights might seem monotonous to the troops here, to the 33 children who recently visited CBS they were very interesting.

Students from the Tefik Canga School in Ferizaj/Urosevac visited Soldiers at Camp Bondsteel as part of their multi-cultural awareness project. Taking a tour of the camp, meeting pilots, firemen, and K9 military police officers, the children had a whole day to see what life is like for the Peacemakers who live here.

Starting out, the kids were separated into two groups, one to tour the Fire Station and the other to tour the helipad landing, said Michael Grenon, air traffic controller for the Government

Service Agency. Splitting up the children meant more activities and more hands-on experience for the kids.

Soldiers from Task Force Med Falcon hosted the children who learned about fire safety, watching a demonstration with the fire extinguishing hose hooked onto the truck, and climbing around inside an emergency vehicle were just a couple of the highlights. Having one fireman dressed in full gear, with his fire suit, gave the kids first-hand knowledge of what the fire response team will be equipped with in case of a fire emergency.

After half of the group was finished at the fire station, it was their turn to visit the airfield. Greeted by Task Force Shadow Soldiers, the kids got the chance to see a Black Hawk helicopter up close and learn a few things from

the pilot in charge.

Following the morning's activities of fire engines and helicopters it was time to eat. The children filed in, two-by-two into the South Town Dining Facility. They were wide-eyed at the selection of food available (including the ice cream bar) and the Soldiers were surprised at the presence of little kids in a military environment.

Soldiers and civilians who work on Camp Bondsteel took the children through the food line and sat with the kids as they filled up on everything from hamburgers to ice cream.

Later on, when everyone was finished with lunch, the group walked through Camp Bondsteel for the next event, a demonstration with the K9 unit and their dog, Bruno. All 33 kids lined up and sat down to watch the

Visit continued on page 23



Top left photo, all fired up and ready to blow! The ammunition is prepared with blasting caps into the C-4 explosives. Middle left photo, the missing man table is set up in the North Dining Facility to remind Soldiers of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians who lost their lives. Bottom left photo, Capt. Otis Henderson, company commander, 787th EOD and Sgt. 1st Class Robert Olaires, first sergeant, 787th EOD set up their shot group for detonation. Main center photo, Olaires, 787th EOD views a hole created from the blast.



EOD Memorial

Story and photos by Spc. Alicia Dill

The Soldier jumps up in her bed, looks around the room and realizes she is ok. "What was that noise?" she yells to an empty room. This was supposed to be her day to sleep in, but now she is worried. Finding the phone under a pile of clothes she dials the battle desk.

"What is going on, I felt an explosion and heard a loud noise?" she said.

"Oh, it is just EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) blowing up stuff again," said the Soldier at the battle desk.

This scenario was all too real for some Camp Bondsteel Soldiers, during the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Memorial Day held at the range, May 7th.

EOD Memorial activities were also held at the North Town Dining Facility.

"We are out here, on the range for two reasons. First is to get rid of some unserviceable ammunition and the second is to commemorate our fallen EOD brothers," said Staff Sgt. Fred Schoeffler, team leader, 787th EOD.

"Our way to remember our fallen EOD brothers is to blow stuff up and tell war stories."

At the range, business was booming.

"Once the ammo is issued from the supply point, it is divided up into different shot groups, this is so we don't go over the range limit of 150 pounds," said Schoeffler. "Each team then sets up their own shot group."

Setting up the shot groups was not an easy task.

We placed the explosives in a specific way so all the ammunition goes away," said Spc. Raymond Dufresne, team member, 787th EOD. "We place the C-4 prime detonation cords into the C-4 and we generally use electric blasting caps."

After preparing the shot groups, the EOD team had a chance to see the fruits of their labor by setting off the explosives and letting the camp know of their presence.

"The idea that we thought of for setting it off on the EOD Memorial

day is, it is the core mission of the EOD technicians to dispose of ordnance...to do what EOD guys do and blow stuff up," said Schoeffler.

With the first part of the ceremony finished, the team moved to the DFAC for the rest of the commemoration.

The team put together a display in the middle of the DFAC, with a special table setup with the headgear and place settings of each different branch. With the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps all represented, the idea behind the table was to show the Task Force the 787th EOD team was saving a place for their fellow comrades, said Capt. Otis Henderson, company commander, 787th EOD.

"We put together the remembrance in the DFAC so the Soldiers can come through and read about the history of the EOD and what that means," said Henderson. "We put pictures of fallen Soldiers and short biographies to show the Task Force, as a whole, that EOD does go out of their way to remember

EOD continued on page 22

A synchronized effort

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. R. David Kyle

With the passing of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, a boundary was created.

Questions about where the province of Kosovo ends and where Serbia begins were answered with the temporary solution named the ABL (Administrative Boundary Line).

The whole idea of the ABL looks great on paper, but it takes both KFOR Soldiers and the Army of Serbia and Montenegro (VSCG), patrolling both sides, for the boundary to be relevant and effective.

It corresponds with the prior administrative boundary of Kosovo during the Yugoslav era. The ABL is approximately 260 kilometers long, and is patrolled constantly by KFOR Soldiers and Serbia to prevent smuggling

and illegal wood cutting.

"KFOR is responsible for patrolling the ABL, and Multinational Brigade (East) has approximately 80 kilometers in our sector," said Maj. Kris A. Kough, Operations & Plans Officer for Task Force Sidewinder. "The majority of the patrols along the ABL in our sector are our own, ones we conduct, and the others are synchronized patrols with the Serbian army," he said.

A synchronized patrol is when American Soldiers patrol the Kosovo side of the ABL and VSCG patrols have predetermined checkpoints where they meet along the route. The initiative began with the 5B rotation and the first patrol was implemented during the 6A rotation.

"The synchronized patrols are all

planned out and we have numerous routes along the ABL that have all been coordinated," said Kough. "Our objective is basically to interdict any smuggling activities or illegal crossings of the ABL," he said.

The synchronized efforts of KFOR and the VSCG are sending the message that criminal and extremist activity along the ABL will not be tolerated.

Units from Task Force Sidewinder are responsible for patrolling the ABL that falls within the Multinational Brigade (East) sector and on April 26, Company C, 1-160 Infantry had an opportunity to conduct a synchronized patrol.

"We were tasked to provide one squad to conduct a synchronized patrol with VSCG forces along the ABL,"

ABL continued on page 22



Spc. Juan Moran (front right) and Sgt. Hitan Patel (left rear), both with Company C, 1-160th, takes a short rest halt while conducting a synchronized patrol through steep terrain along the administrative boundary line (ABL).

Linking up with training

Story and photos by Spc. Alicia Dill



Spc. Benjamin Saxon, wheeled vehicle mechanic, Task Force Shadow, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, uses ground guide signals with an Italian Soldier during an inter-operability exercise held at Camp Espana.

Hook this up, lift it up and then leave it up in the air," said Spc. William Suraci. Using ground guide signals and short phrases in English, this HMMWV mechanic, directs a different kind of traffic during an inter-operability training exercise outside Camp Espana in Multinational Brigade (Center).

With heavy duty equipment all around the open field, the voices of the Soldiers participating can barely be heard above the roar of the engines.

"Ok, looks good," said Suraci, a mechanic, with Task Force Falcon, 40th Forward Support Battalion. "Take a picture, it's all finished."

The idea of different armies (and their equipment) working together to accomplish the same mission looks great on paper, but accomplishing it requires much more preparation and training.

"This training is to see the inter-operability of all the recovery assets in Kosovo," said Capt. Charles Jarvis,



Spc. William Suraci, mechanic, Task Force Falcon, 40th Forward Support Battalion, and a Hellenic Soldier, stand by while one truck is being linked up to another for towing.

materiel management chief, Task Force Falcon. All of the different countries participated in a round-robin exercise,

trying to hook up any vehicles that could come through our area of operation, he said.

This exercise consisted of four stations with various types of recovery vehicles.

The first station is the M984, Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT), a full recovery vehicle which can lift, tow or drag other vehicles the same size or less, Suraci said.

The second station is the five-ton wrecker which is also a recovery vehicle. It uses a hook and a winch to tow and has the capabilities of towing other vehicles up to five-tons.

To see if all the vehicles will load up onto the Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET), is the third part of the exercise, he said.

The HET is capable of towing a maximum of 70 tons and works like a flatbed trailer, said Jarvis.

To complete the exercise, the link-

Linking up continued on page 22



An Italian Soldier drives his vehicle onto the Heavy Equipment Transporter (HET) as a Kellogg, Brown and Root Services worker ground guides him on a safe ascent.



One bridge two towns eight nations

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Tim Mills

A German Soldier hands off the sledge hammer to the next willing participant as Soldiers from eight different nations gather in MNB (SW) to launch a temporary bridge bypass between Rosuje and Jablanica.

A dusty yellow Mercedes rolls over the broken wooden planks, creeping slowly across the bowing structure. On the other side of the river is a gymkhana as local traffic maneuvers around military vehicles and intrigued children. Horse-drawn carts, tractors and bicycles yield to cranes, dump trucks and semis. The roar of heavy machines interrupts the quaint sounds of farm animals.

Well off the beaten path, the village locals witness the Kosovo Forces contribution to their small rural community.

This farming community, turned construction site, provides a different kind of workplace as Soldiers from eight different nations joined together in Multinational Brigade (South West) to launch a temporary bridge bypass between Rosuje and Jablanice e Vogel/Mala Jablanica.

At first glance, you wouldn't think many people lived in the area. However, according to Gani Abazi, a professional student in Pristina, the amount of people impacted by this is much greater.

"This place is extremely important, because it connects two whole regions," said Abazi. He knows because he grew up in the town of Jablanice e Vogel/Mala Jablanica where his parents still live. "This village has more than 600 inhabitants," said Abazi, who visits his hometown every weekend. "And those villages over there have about 100 to 200 people."

"It's quite an isolated village," he said. "But it's still important that they can travel. At the same time there are many other villages across the hill who commute through this territory with this bridge."

The two regions comprise about 50 villages, said Syle Berisha, a farmer from Rosuje.

"They can go through Pec/Peje," said Abazi. "But it's much longer and this shortens the way by at least 10 kilometers."

To many people, a six-mile detour doesn't seem like much, but if you're riding in a horse-drawn cart, hauling cows behind a small tractor or walking to school, six miles makes a big difference.

"Prior to three years ago, there was only a small bridge big enough for pedestrians to cross," said Berisha, telling a story of how his mother almost drowned

structure.

"This old bridge is about to fall apart," said Sami Berisha, a 13 year-old boy who lives on one side and attends school on the other.

It was the Pec/Peje municipality that initiated dialogue about the project said Lt. Col. Fausto Pellegrino, Chief G-4 Logistics, MNB(SW).

"So we dealt with them and signed a technical agreement with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Pec/Peje municipality," he said.

After the ground was worked and the foundations for the temporary bypass were prepared, all the Soldiers gathered at Camp Italia for the bridge launching mission, said Pellegrino.

These are the types of missions that A Company, 578th Engineers, are anxious to be involved in. Although they're tasked as infantry Soldiers on this deployment, when opportunities come up to do engineer work, they jump at the chance.

"When they said there was another project coming up...I volunteered," said Sgt. Edward Adams, Assistant Squad Leader, A Company, 578th Engineers. Edwards attended a previous Mabey and Johnson bridge training at Camp Casablanca and served as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) for this group of American Soldiers.

"I consider it a reward to be able to come out and do engineer work," said Cpl. William Waterman, Team Leader, A Company, 578th Engineers. "Meeting people from other countries and working with them side by side is an excellent experience."

The four Americans worked on the right side of the bridge, building panels with the Argentinians said Edwards.

"We've been working really well together," said Spc. Benjamin Winchester, A Company, 578th Engineers.

According to Pellegrino, the goal was, "to launch the bridge involving as many nationalities as possible."

Bridge continued on page 23



American Soldier Sgt. Edward Adams, Assistant Squad Leader, A Company 578th Engineers works with Denmark Soldier Sgt. Tue Christensen, Section Command, Combat Engineers. The two Soldiers work together to set the transit to get the right height for the landing rollers on the opposite side of the bridge.

trying to cross the river below.

Ali Gashi, a farmer for 36 years, remembers the stressful conditions he endured. "We had to help the kids, by physically carrying them through the water or with a horse," said Gashi.

A sinking foundation has left the existing bridge bent and citizens concerned about the future of its infra-

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Course #	Title	Instructor	Days	Hours	Credit	Start	End
ALBN 111	Elementary Albanian I	Qamo	Mo/We	1830-2130	3	6-Jun-05	27-Jul-05
ALBN 112**	Elementary Albanian II	Haxhiu	Tu/Th	1830-2130	3	7-Jun-05	28-Jul-05
BIOL 164/161	Intro. To Human A & P w/ Lab	Brown	Mo/We	1800-2200	4	6-Jun-05	27-Jul-05
BMGT 380	Business Law I	Schlichter	Mo/We	1830-2130	3	6-Jun-05	27-Jul-05
COMM 390**	Writing for Managers	Donnellan	Mo/We	1830-2130	3	6-Jun-05	27-Jul-05
ENGL 101*	Introduction to Writing	Donnellan	Tu/Th	1830-2130	3	7-Jun-05	28-Jul-05
GERM 111	Elementary German I	Cariaga	Mo/We	1830-2130	3	6-Jun-05	27-Jul-05
GVPT 170	American Government	Weaver	Tu/Th	1830-2130	3	7-Jun-05	28-Jul-05
GVPT 401	Problems of World Politics	Watkins	Fr/Su	1830-2130	3	10-Jun-05	31-Jul-05
HIST 462	The U.S. Civil War	Hill	Tu/Th	1830-2130	3	7-Jun-05	28-Jul-05
IFSM 201	Introduction to Computer Based Systems	Dauti	Mo/We	1830-2130	3	6-Jun-05	27-Jul-05
IFSM 300**	Information Systems in Organizations	Williams	Mo/We	1830-2130	3	6-Jun-05	27-Jul-05
MGST 160	Principles of Supervision	Sarabia	Fr/Su	1830-2130	3	6-Jun-05	27-Jul-05
PSYC 100	Introduction to Psychology	West	Tu/Th	1830-2130	3	7-Jun-05	28-Jul-05
SPAN 111	Elementary Spanish I	Cariaga	Fr/Su	0900-1200	3	10-Jun-05	31-Jul-05
SPAN 112**	Elementary Spanish II	Cariaga	Tu/Th	1830-2130	3	7-Jun-05	28-Jul-05

*Placement test required **Prerequisites will be enforced.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Seminar #	Title	Instructor	Days	Hours	Credit	Start	End
CMST 100A-1	Introduction to Microcomputers	Dauti	Sa	0900-1800	1	4-Jun-05	11-Jun-05
CMST 100B-1	Microsoft Word	Dauti	Su	0900-1800	1	12-Jun-05	19-Jun-05
CMST 100D-1	Microsoft PowerPoint	Dauti	Sa	0900-1800	1	18-Jun-05	25-Jun-05
CMST 100F-1	Microsoft Access	Dauti	Su	0900-1800	1	26-Jun-05	3-Jul-05
CMST 100G-1	Microsoft Excel	Dauti	Sa	0900-1800	1	2-Jul-05	9-Jul-05
CMST 100M	HTML	Dauti	Su	0900-1800	1	10-Jul-05	17-Jul-05
HIST 218/318Q	Gettysburg	Hill	Su	0900-1800	1	5-Jun-05	12-Jun-05
MGST 198E	Personal Investment	Hill	Sa	0900-1800	1	11-Jun-05	18-Jun-05

CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

Course #	Title	Instructor	Days	Hours	Credit	Start	End
CJSA1348	Ethics In Criminal Justice	VanSlycke	Mo/We	1900-2200	3	6-Jun-05	27-Jul-05
CJSA 1359	Police Systems & Practices	VanSlycke	Tu/Th	1900-2200	3	7-Jun-05	28-Jul-05
CJSA1312	Crime In America	VanSlycke	Fr/Su	1900-2200	3	10-Jun-05	31-Jul-05
EMSP1401/1160	EMT Basic & EMT Clinical	Brown	Tu/Th/Sa	1830-2200	5	21-Jun-05	1-Sep-05

Distinguished Soldiers

Camp Bondsteel

CHEN, SHAWN	SPC	C DET 39TH FINANCE	11-Mar-05	AAM	ACH
HENDERSON, NORVELL JR.	SFC	A DET 39TH FINANCE	11-Mar-05	AAM	ACH
BERRIOS, RICHARD	SPC	432 CIVIL AFFAIRS BN	11-Mar-05	ARCOM	SVC
KLEINHOLZ, CARL	CPT	HHD 39TH FINANCE	11-Mar-05	AAM	ACH
SCHWERTNER, MARCUS	PFC	B DET 39TH FINANCE	11-Mar-05	AAM	ACH
O'NEAL, BRIAN	SFC	HHC 3RD BDE 40TH INF	18-Mar-05	ARCOM	ACH
MOTIEKONIS, PETER A.	CW2	MSU	21-Mar-05	MERIT	ACH
KALLINIS, GEORGIOS	LTC	506TH MECHANIZED INF	21-Mar-05	MERIT	ACH
VOGELBACHER, BARRY	SSG	HQ 1/635TH AR TFT	25-Mar-05	ARCOM	ACH
MAURER, DARLENE	SFC	432ND CIVIL AFFAIRS	29-Mar-05	ARCOM	SVC
PARMAXIDIS, MICHAIL	PVT	506TH MECHANIZED INF	11-Apr-05	CACM	ACH
VLACHOS, THOMAS	SSG	506TH MECHANIZED INF	11-Apr-05	CACM	ACH
BRADFIELD, CLAY	COL	40TH INFANTRY DIV	13-Apr-05	CAMM	ACH
MONAGHAN, DANIEL	LTC	40TH INFANTRY DIV	12-Apr-05	CACM	ACH
PELS, KELLY	SPC	TF FALCON JAG	15-Apr-05	ARCOM	ACH
BASSOT, NICOLAS	CPT	MSU	18-Apr-05	CAMM	ACH
NUGENT, CHRISTOPHER	N/A	MNB(E)	25-Apr-05	CACM	ACH
DREHER, DARREN	CW4	TF SHADOW	25-Apr-05	ARCOM	ACH
PESSALL, DAVID	SFC	TF SHADOW	22-Apr-05	ARCOM	SVC
SHAW, BRYAN	SGT	TF SHADOW	22-Apr-05	ARCOM	ACH
GORMAN, THOMAS	CW3	TF SHADOW	22-Apr-05	ARCOM	SVC
PENDERSON, DANE	CW2	TF SHADOW	22-Apr-05	ARCOM	ACH
CERVONE, PAUL	MAJ	TF SHADOW	16-Apr-05	MSM	SVC
CERVONE, PAUL	MAJ	TF SHADOW	16-Apr-05	ARCOM	ACH
HOKE, LYNETTE	SPC	MPAD FALCON	15-Apr-05	AAM	SVC
ALMRYDE, PAUL	SFC	TF FALCON	26-Apr-05	ARCOM	SVC
BOMBERGER, MATHEW	SGT	TF SHADOW	22-Apr-05	ARCOM	SVC
SELAPACK, JAMES	SPC	TF SHADOW	26-Apr-05	ARCOM	ACH
BREWER, DONALD	SPC	TF SHADOW	22-Apr-05	ARCOM	SVC
WHITE, LOWELL	SGM	TF FALCON	26-Apr-05	ARCOM	SVC
SANCHEZ, LORETTA	CW2	TF FALCON	26-Apr-05	ARCOM	SVC
VAN-LANEN, KRISTY	SGT	432ND CIVIL AFFAIRS	22-Apr-05	AAM	ACH
BUB, WALTER	SFC	515TH MP DET	5-May-05	ARCOM	ACH
SAMMARONE, IVAN	N/A	MSU	5-May-05	CACM	ACH
BECK, KENNETH	SPC	TF TORNADO	16-Apr-05	ARCOM	ACH
JAKUBOWITZ, JASON	SPC	928TH FINANCE	16-Apr-05	ARCOM	ACH
MASON, CHRISTOPHER	SPC	TF TORNADO	16-Apr-05	ARCOM	ACH

Camp Monteith

YATES, JASMINE	SGT	HHC 1-160 Inf	25 Feb 05	AAM	ACH
DIFATO, MATTHEW	SPC	HHC 1-160 Inf	10 Mar 05	AAM	ACH
ELAM, THOMAS	SGT	C Co. 1-160 Inf	11 Apr 05	AAM	ACH
DEPROSSE, BRIAN	SGT	C Co. 1-160 Inf	11 Apr 05	AAM	ACH
NGUYEN, HOANG	SPC	C Co. 1-160 Inf	10 May 05	AAM	ACH
MAGPANTAY, JOHN	MAJ	HHC 1-160 Inf	23 May 05	ARCOM	ACH

those that have fallen.”

Being deployed in Kosovo, it was still important for the team to keep up with an annual tradition of remembering those who have passed away in the line of duty, he said. The original ceremony takes place at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, said Henderson.

At the annual ceremony, a representative from each service will read the names of the fallen, said Schoeffler. A missing man formation will be held, as well as a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps, he said.

Even after the team's modified memorial ceremony was held at Camp Bondsteel, the importance of the day was still on their minds.

“I feel really honored to have the opportunity to pay our respects,” said Henderson.

“I feel blessed that we could do our part here and remember, by sharing our story with the rest of the Task Force about what other EOD technicians have done,” said Schoeffler. “It stands as a living reminder of the EOD motto: initial success or total failure.”

ing up process is finally tested with the fourth station, the M88. The M88 is a tracked, medium recovery vehicle, capable of lifting other vehicles out of trenches, holes, and mud.

By traveling through the stations and testing each other's equipment, the Soldiers got the chance to meet their fellow partners in the KFOR mission and work together on a common task.

“We were able to be in vehicles we have never been in before, and we've just been getting to know each other's jobs,” said Pvt. Luis Miguel Villalba, a Spanish Soldier who works with the engineer unit from Camp Espana. “We talked about the rules in each different army, the different units and it has been interesting.”

Working together, despite the language barrier, has been one of the many goals achieved in the exercise, said Suraci. Another important accomplishment is the overall success of the training.

“Every vehicle here, we have managed to hook up,” said Suraci. “We can tow them all successfully.”

Something else that added to the exercise was the documentation of all the successful hook-ups. By taking photo-

graphs of the equipment linked together, it will provide a guide for other Soldiers who may have to tow or recover a vehicle in the future.

“Every nationality will have this book, and it has pictures, diagrams and explains what to do and how to do it,” said Jarvis. “It will help us when we are supporting other countries.”

Making this exercise possible took almost two months of planning and preparation with the multinational support cell, said Jarvis. Twenty nine people participated in the exercise from Multinational Brigade (East), 15 American Soldiers, nine civilians from Kellogg, Brown and Root Services and four Hellenic Soldiers. This type of training is conducted once a year in April and this is the fourth time they have done this exercise, he said.

With completion of the task at hand, Soldiers finished their day with new friendships and a different outlook on their international partners.

“I have learned a whole lot more about these people,” said Suraci. “Never being deployed before, I got a chance to see how other troops looked at us by working with them today.”

ABL continued from page 14

said Capt. Christopher C. Silva, commander, Company C, 1-160th Infantry. “We were looking for illegal crossings, smuggling, people transporting illegal weapons, or human trafficking,” he said.

The morning of the patrol, members of 2nd Platoon, Company C, 1-160th Infantry, arrived at the staging area, established communications with the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) and then waited.

“We were waiting to meet with the Serbians so we could confirm the plan to conduct the patrol,” said 1st Lt. Aaron J. Roggow, platoon leader, Company C, 1-160th Infantry. “We met at the ABL and reviewed the plan to link up at certain check points along the route,” he said.

After the initial meeting, Roggow gave the squad leader the order to move to the link-up point where the American and Serbian patrols would introduce themselves and set-up communications.

“The initial link-up went well,” said Staff Sgt. Ronald L. Cox, squad leader Company C, 1-160th Infantry. “It was pretty neat meeting the Serbians,

because when you are in the military you belong to a brotherhood,” he said.

The two squads lined up on the road, faced each other and introductions were made. Once the formalities were over, the Serbian squad moved out to patrol their side of the boundary and the American squad departed to patrol the Kosovo side.

“The one thing that sticks out in my mind are the trees,” said Spc. Phillip A. Soriano-Tactay, grenadier, Company C, 1-160th Infantry. “It was heavily wooded and the terrain seemed like it was all uphill,” he said.

This synchronized patrol was something to remember because it was the first to include the media.

“We wanted someone from the MPAD (Mobile Public Affairs Detachment) to go along and take pictures of the patrol,” said Kough. “When we proposed that to the Serbians, they had to get approval for our press to be there,” he said.

Kough explained that when the request was approved, the Serbians wanted to send their press along, as

well as a video crew. At the close of the patrol the two squads again lined up facing each other and exchanged mementos with the cameras catching the friendly exchange.

“They gave us their unit patch and crest to remember the patrol and to remember them by,” said Soriano-Tactay.

This patrol was indeed memorable for the two squads involved and Kough summed up the results. “I think it ended up being a positive thing.”

ABL Tips

- 1) Do not cross the Administrative-Boundary Line.
- 2) NATO & Serbia and Montenegro forces have agreed not to cross the ABL.
- 3) Only members of a KFOR Joint Implementation Commission team are permitted to cross the ABL.
- 4) Know your location when operating near the ABL.
- 5) Report any crossings of the ABL to your chain of command.

Those who spoke more than one language proved to be a real asset in the process.

"I'm able to communicate in Spanish," said Sgt. Oscar Rolin, Team Leader, A Company, 578th Engineers. "I can help because the Italians tell me what to do and I tell the Argentineans."

The four Soldiers from the 578th Engineers involved in the project enjoyed the excitement their efforts generated.

"This is an actual hands-on job and you can see that people appreciate it," said Winchester. "The other day we had a local man from this area come by and deliver several stacks of eggs as kind of a thank you gesture for the work we're doing here."

"A majority of the people here are farmers," said Abazi. "There are all professions, but farming predominates. It's a very good and productive area."

Life in rural Kosovo is great, said Berisha, a long-time farmer.

"It's very good for agriculture," he said "It has a beautiful landscape, it's good for cattle and the air is good too."

By being in the area for a few days, Soldiers like Winchester saw how their work impacted the future of the region.

"I'm sure this helps with the economy as well," said Winchester. "If someone over here can't get some cows to market or whatever they're growing, that can make a difference on the community,"

Not only does the project help the rural farming community, it also provides a rewarding experience for the KFOR "community."

"I think having all of KFOR looking at this project is good," said Adams. "Maybe this won't be the only project that we work on as a multi-national unit...there might be other projects and I think that would be really good."

Observing the progress the multi-national group was making on the bridge, Pellegrino said, "We're accomplishing our mission."

The sound of tires rolling over loose boards has changed to the high pitch clip-clop of horseshoes striking the steel floor paneling of a Mabey and Johnson bridge. The old bridge is dismantled and local nationals are building the new foundations. In a few months the bridge will be reassembled and the temporary bypass will be de-launched. A seamless transition in transportation will have taken place as a result of cooperation between the municipality and a multinational force of Soldiers dedicated to moving Kosovo forward.



Sgt. Clayton Glover and Staff Sgt. Darren Smith, 259th Military Police Company, Heidelberg Germany, gave the children a chance to meet Bruno after the K9 demonstration at Camp Bondsteel.

Kids continued from page 11

"show," as Staff Sgt. Darren Smith, gave instructions to Sgt. Clayton Glover, and Sgt. Corey Harold, all from the 259th Military Police Company, Heidelberg, Germany, to show what Bruno and his handlers are capable of. When the demonstration was finished, the eager audience got a chance to interact with Bruno under the watchful eye of Glover.

After the K9 unit left, the open field was the children's playground for the last hours of their visit to Camp Bondsteel. Soccer and "duck, duck goose" were just a few of the games being played by both the kids and the Soldiers.

With hugs from the troops and t-shirts and candy, the kids climbed on the bus to return home. After the goodbyes were said, the chance to reflect on the day brought positive comments on both sides of the visit.

"This experience was important for a couple of reasons. One is that they are all outside wondering what is going on behind closed doors, they can come in here and find out that we are doing good things," said Grenon. "Also, we

are hoping it can give them some peace of mind and some serenity for where they live."

Even though the children were the guests for the day, the Soldiers had a learning experience as well.

"The Soldier's got a chance to intermingle and go outside the wire without actually leaving the compound," he said. "The Soldiers and the children just got along great."

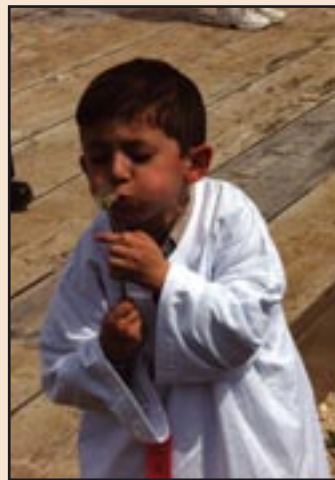
"It was nice to see how approachable the Soldiers were towards the kids and us," said Vlora Osmani, a teacher at Tefik Canga School.

For the service-members, it was another day on Camp

Bondsteel. But for the teachers and students it was a lasting impression of the American people, said Grenon.

With a successful visit from some of the young people of Kosovo, it is easy to see why future events are a definite possibility.

"My next goal is to get the Soldiers down to the school to see the children," said Grenon. "It will give them (Soldiers) a chance to see what it is like down in their neck of the woods."



Ahmet Nazifi, wearing his new shirt from Psychological Operations, takes times to enjoy the day.

Parting Shots



PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE